

Gang Assessment Tool

- 1 Is there graffiti on or near your neighborhood or community? (5)
- 2 Is the graffiti crossed out? (10)
- 3 Do the young people in your community wear colors, jewelry, clothing, flash hand signs, or display other behaviors that may be gang related? (10)
- 4 Are drugs available in or near your community? (10)
- 5 Was there a significant increase in the number of physical confrontations within the past 12 months in or near your community? (5)
- 6 Is there an increasing presence of weapons in your community? (5)
- 7 Are beepers, pagers, or cellular phones used by the young people in your community? (10)
- 8 Has there been a 'drive-by' shooting in or around your community? (15)
- 9 Have you had a "show-by" display of weapons in or around your community? (10)
- 10 Is the truancy rate and/or daytime burglaries in your community increasing? (5)
- 11 Have racial incidents increased in your community? (5)
- 12 Is there a history of gangs in your community? (10)
- 13 Is there an increasing presence of "informal social groups" with the unusual names that have words like: kings, disciples, queens, posse, crew? (15)

Add up your score:

- 0-20 points = No Problem
- 25-45 points = Emerging Problems
- 50-65 points = You Have Problems
- 70 + points = There Are Serious Problems

At 50+ points a need exists to develop a gang prevention and intervention program.

Wichita Police Department

Gang Intelligence	268-4646
Gang/Felony Assault	268-4191
SCAT Hotline	267-SCAT
Patrol East Bureau	688-9300
Patrol North Bureau	688-9500
Patrol South Bureau	337-9200
Patrol West Bureau	941-0673

Helpful Numbers

Communities in Schools	973-5110
Family Services Institute	269-0488
Teen Heartline	683-3315
Youth and Family Crisis Center	943-2243
Kansas Children's Service League	942-4261
Wichita Child Guidance Center	686-6671
Al-Anon/Al-A-teen	266-8499
Street Outreach	262-HOME
Parent Help-line	263-KIDS
United Way Info Line	267-4327
Catholic Charities	262-8898
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	263-3300
Boy Scouts of America	264-3386
Girl Scouts	684-6531
Boys & Girls Club	687-5437
Parks & Recreation	263-5437
Boys Town National Hotline	1-800-448-3000

Our Mission

The Wichita Police Department's mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve the problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.

GANG AWARENESS



WICHITA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Do you know if your child is involved with gang activity?

Do you know what to look for to help identify gang membership or association?

What are gang colors and gang signs?

Colors refers to a gang member representing his/her membership by wearing a specific gang logo, particular colors of clothing, a specific brand name of clothing or clothing worn in a predefined manner. This may also include hair styles, jewelry, or even the way a person stands, walks or folds arms and hands. Colors identify the gang member and show member pride and affiliation.

Hand signals and gang slang are a means of communication. Symbols formed and flashed with the fingers, hands, and body have very specific meaning to the gang. The same goes for buzz words or phrases. Remember all of these may be area or geographic region specific and meanings may vary.

Why do gangs use graffiti and what does it mean?

As gang activity increases so does their graffiti. Graffiti has been called the “newspaper of the streets.” Each gang has its unique symbols and cryptic types of writing. Graffiti is not art work; it is sophisticated communication that publicizes the gang’s power, status, delineates territory, sends messages, and warns intruders. Graffiti upside down or crossed out is generally a ‘put down’ or threat to a rival gang or person. ‘Death warrants’ for police officers are known to have been posted with graffiti.

What are some typical pre-gang behaviors?

Gang involvement does not happen overnight. It is a gradual process and if you are alert you will see the signs.

- Poor progress or achievement in school
- Truancy from school
- Lack of hobbies or too much leisure time
- Frequent contact with authority figures or police
- Draws gang insignias/symbols
- Problems at home
- Lives in neighborhood where gang exist
- Friends are gang members or “dressing down” or “sagging and bagging” in gang attire

These items are characteristic of gang involvement. However, some people who join or associate with gangs do not dress in the traditional attire and do not exhibit conspicuous behavior to show gang involvement. **Parents must be aware of the behavior and activities of their children.** Continual monitoring of behavior and positive verbal communication between parents and young people is a must for gang membership prevention.

How do you deal with gangs?

- Be decisive, firm, and fair. Lenient treatment is viewed as weakness and they will take advantage of you.
- Intimidation will not work; it will most likely lead to confrontation. Lectures do not work either. Gang members are looking for respect.
- Giving any public or media attention to a gang only feeds their egos and escalates gang activity.
- It is bad news to negotiate with terrorist or criminals, so don't do it with gangs or their members-all it does is give them more recognition and power.
- Remember the four “Rs” about graffiti-Read, Record, Report, Remove.
- Prevent conflict whenever possible-look for common ground.

What can parents do?

- Know your children’s friends.
- Know about who and what influences your kids.
- Know what your children are doing at all times.
- Become involved with them and occupy their time.
- Strive for good communication between you and your youngsters.
- Again, spend time with them.
- Do not allow gang dress or attire.
- Do not allow hanging in the streets or mall.
- Be very suspicious of gang writing, graffiti, or tattoos.
- Encourage anti-gang attitudes at home.
- Learn about gangs and drugs.
- Participate in your child’s education-find out what’s happening at school.
- Get involved in community affairs.
- Set the example for your kids-they will do what you do.
- Believe in your young kids.

What are some parental strategies to combat gangs?

- More recreational and leisure-time activities for youngsters
- A crack-down and tougher law enforcement against gang activities in the community
- Stepped-up efforts to dry up the chief source of gang money-DRUGS
- Increased parental supervision of children, their activities, and their friends
- Collaborative efforts between police, community residents, and young people

What are some community anti-gang strategies?

- Build methods of disseminating advice/information on dealing with gangs to youths and parents.
- Enact ordinances, both school board, city, and state, that make it a felony for gangs to recruit in school or intimidate youngsters to join a gang.
- Support initiatives that provide for a rich assortment of extracurricular programs for kids and the incentives for them to participate in them.
- Organize/support workshops on street gangs to be taught to parents, grandparents, and guardians of school-age children.
- Provide public seminars on “street gangs” throughout the year.
- Run media series on street gangs, stripping them of their mystique and exposing them for what they are.
- Encourage service clubs and church groups to sponsor a battery of community speak-outs during the year on street gangs, with the help of the police departments, courts, youth services agencies, correctional institutions, and schools.
- Organize a citizen patrol to patrol through their community and erase gang graffiti whenever it appears.

Please take the time to look at the back of this flyer to assess your neighborhood.